

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JAY PIERSON

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Pierson, who has dedicated the past 34 years to this legislative body and our Nation.

As a floor assistant, Jay's knowledge of the House rules and procedure, and the guidance he provides Members and staff have allowed this institution to run smoothly in service to the American people. As a dedicated, revered, and unwavering presence on House floor, Jay himself has become an institution.

Members and staff on both sides of the aisle call Jay their friend for his assistance and his incredible kindness. Known not only for his expertise on House rules and procedure, Jay is a historian of the House and holds a doctorate in English. None may know Jay better than the staff of the Library of Congress from whom he is constantly borrowing and returning books.

Mr. Speaker, I know I am joined by current and former members of Congress and staff when I say that we all feel honored to have worked with Jay. I thank Jay very much for his service and I wish he, his wife JoAnn, and his sons Joel and Jeff the best as they enjoy more time together.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS POISON CENTER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Illinois Poison Center (IPC), the oldest poison center in the United States. Their services in poison treatment and prevention have made the Illinois Poison Center a great contributor to the Illinois emergency medical community.

Increased awareness of the potential dangers of over the counter and prescription medications as well as common household products is a crucial step toward better poison safety and prevention, especially for children. Nearly half of the 77,000 poisonings reported to the Illinois Poison Center last year involved children under the age of five. Most of these cases could be prevented by greater awareness of potential risks posed by household substances. The Illinois Poison Center has proven its dedication to educating the citizens of Illinois in better poison prevention.

Thanks to its trained medical staff, the Illinois Poison Center treats over 90 percent of calls reporting poisoning over the phone, reducing the need for doctor's visits and emergency room care.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing March 2013 as Poison Prevention Month in Illinois, and in commending the Illinois Poison Center on 6 decades of excellence in poison education and treatment to the State of Illinois.

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THIS TRAGEDY

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 833, and in support of the greater Newtown community in the wake of the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Twenty seven lives have been lost and countless others have been affected by the shooting in Newtown, Connecticut on December 15, 2012.

Twenty first-graders were killed in their classroom.

And teachers and school administrators died while protecting their students.

As a nation, we are heartsick.

As a mother and grandmother of eight, I cannot even begin to fathom what the families of Newtown are going through.

As they have just begun the long and slow process of grieving and healing, our nation's hearts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with them.

This horrible crime reminds us that our time here is precious and short.

And it reminds us that even though we cannot prevent every single senseless violent act, we must come together to all we can to reduce the gun violence that contributed to these losses.

For too long we have neglected to take the steps necessary to stem the damage and harm inflicted by gun violence.

I pray that this horrific event will remind us that our highest priority is to keep our children safe—and right now we are not doing enough.

There is so much more that we can do to protect our families and communities from gun violence.

But there is also much more that we can and must do to strengthen our mental health care systems—to treat those in need, avert future violence, and support those whose lives have been affected by it.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, and as time passes for the community of Newtown, the nation will reflect on this tragedy.

I hope that through this soul searching we will conclude that we have a moral responsibility to take strong, effective action to reduce the harm caused by gun violence.

We owe it to the victims and their families to take every step possible to prevent another horrific tragedy like this one.

If not now, when?

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT BRIAN J. NELSON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brian J. Nelson as he is presented with the Purple Heart on December 19, 2012 in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

The Purple Heart, a military decoration awarded by the President, is reserved for members of the Armed Forces who have been injured by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. It is one of the highest honors that our servicemen and women may receive. Sergeant Nelson was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Anbar Province, Iraq, on September 30, 2006. He was in the middle of serving his second tour of duty in Iraq at that time. However, this did not stop Sergeant Nelson from returning to active duty, as he deployed a third time to Afghanistan following his recovery. Sergeant Nelson's heroism and commitment to serving our country is truly remarkable, and throughout his military career he has served as an embodiment of real patriotism.

Sergeant Nelson is a native of Cape Cod, having grown up in Falmouth. Before graduating from Falmouth High School, he was selected to be captain of the both the school's cross country and track teams. He then received a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire in chemical engineering, an accomplishment that would later assist him during his tenure in the Armed Forces. For nearly a decade, Sergeant Nelson spent his summers as a lifeguard on the beaches of Falmouth and Dennis before enlisting in the Marine Corps in November of 2003. Two years later, he deployed from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq, and returned to that region the following year. After recovering from the injuries he sustained in 2006 and his promotion to Sergeant, he deployed for a third time from Camp Pendleton, California, to Helmand Province in Afghanistan. Here, Sergeant Nelson worked as a civil affairs development officer and as the coordinator in the experimental Poppyseed Biofuel Program. Since his return to the United States, Sergeant Nelson has been serving in the Marine Corps Combat Water Survival Instructor Course in Quantico, Virginia.

Sergeant Nelson has earned much recognition for his service to his country. In addition to the Purple Heart, Sergeant Nelson has also received three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and the Combat Action

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ribbon, and he has been selected to attend the Assessment and Selection Indoctrination Course for the Marine Corps Special Operations Command this January. Such accolades are truly fitting for a member of our Armed Services who has always shown the highest level of dedication to his country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brian J. Nelson as he is awarded the Purple Heart. I thank my colleagues for joining me in recognition of this distinguished member of our Armed Services.

TRIBUTE TO THE 30TH VETERANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great community program in my district. For thirty years, Mineral Wells ISD and the American Legion Post 75 have co-sponsored an outstanding program to recognize and honor our nation's veterans. This program is held in the high school stadium and is open to all people of the community and the area. All school students of Mineral Wells ISD are driven by bus to the stadium. This year the program was held on November 12th for an audience of approximately 5500.

Some of the neighboring schools also bring their students to the program. The program comprises performances from all campuses of Mineral Wells ISD including the kindergarten drill team, choirs from the middle school, and students from the junior and senior high schools. The high school band performs a pre-ceremony concert while attendees get seated. A dance team from the high school performs as well.

This year, Lt. General Richard E. "Tex" Brown III (USAF, Ret.) was the guest speaker. He was a former graduate of Mineral Wells High School. Lt. General Brown spoke of the great respect this area has for the military and for veterans. The Master of Ceremonies was LTC Robert Clayton Evans (US Army, Ret.). He also was a former graduate of Mineral Wells High School, a West Point graduate, and a member of the American Legion Post 75. It was a great homecoming for both men.

American Legion, Sons of the Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary state commanders and presidents attended this program. Elected officials of the county and school officials also were among the platform guests.

Students from Mineral Wells High School also helped with other duties involved with the program. Some passed out programs or helped seat groups in the stands. Some passed out small flags to the crowd or helped fill red, white, and blue balloons for the final song.

Local Legion members performed a flag service and presented service flags in the program. Another member manned a small cannon to open the program after a local pilot presented a flyover to honor our veterans. Lunch was served after the program by more local members of the American Legion Post 75 family.

Mineral Wells recognizes the service that veterans have given to our country now and in

the past with this outstanding program. For that reason, Mineral Wells ISD and American Legion Post 75 should be noted for their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL K. MILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Iowa Public Television's executive director and general manager, Daniel Miller, and express my appreciation for his years of service to IPTV and the people of Iowa.

A Des Moines native, Mr. Miller has been a part of the IPTV family for 37 years and has been the executive director and general manager since 2002. Under Dan's leadership, IPTV has expanded its statewide and nationwide relevance by tripling its broadcast offerings amidst balancing the transition to digital television and shrinking government funding. Iowa Public Television boasts more than two million viewers each month, and at times its central Iowa station has been the most-watched public television station in the country.

Dan's many accomplishments at IPTV have earned him deserved praise across the nation, including numerous broadcasting and broadcast journalism awards on the regional and national levels. Simply put, the IPTV we know and love today would not be the same without Mr. Miller's tireless efforts and passionate advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, in an increasingly divisive media environment, Dan's career and legacy at IPTV is a testament to the importance of objective and factual journalism. He has never wavered in his commitment to the truth and journalistic integrity, and I am honored to call him my friend. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Miller on his illustrious career, and wish him a happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 12 and 13, 2012 and missed rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall votes 621, 622, 623, 624, 625 and 626.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE JOSEPH P. MACNABB

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to commemorate the retirement of Judge Joseph P. MacNabb. Over the years, Judge MacNabb has proved his

dedication to the people of the Third District and Georgia and his presence in the community will not be forgotten.

Joseph MacNabb was born in Newnan, Georgia to George and Ella MacNabb. He graduated with top honors from Newnan High School and attended of Emory University. Following Emory, Judge MacNabb graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and served as the First Chairman of the Moot Court Board.

Judge MacNabb used his degree to truly serve people. While he was a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the United States Army, Judge MacNabb spent time in the Republic of Korea and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

After his service abroad, he returned to Georgia and practiced law in Newnan for 43 years as a Partner in the law firm of Mathews, Knight & MacNabb, and then as a Partner in law firm of Rosenzweig, Jones & MacNabb. His hard work did not go unnoticed in the community, as he was elected President of the Newnan Bar Association in 1978 and represented the Coweta County Board of Education for 16 years.

Judge MacNabb was appointed Judge of the Juvenile Court of Coweta County in 1982 and served for 31 years. He was also appointed Judge of the Juvenile Court of Heard County in 1991 and served for 21 years. During his time as Juvenile Judge in Coweta County, he was instrumental in helping establish a permanent home for the Juvenile Court in 2006, earning widespread praise in the community for his commitment to the juvenile court system.

Throughout his career, Judge MacNabb has shown his ability to help others, be the cases big or small. His work abroad on behalf of our nation and in the local community shows his dedication to the legal system and those who are struggling within it. A judge is a man of character and integrity, and Judge MacNabb epitomizes that, which is why I am proud to help honor his service to and I wish our best to Judge MacNabb as he begins his next journey, and hope he has a long and happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT KYLE MATTHEW JENNETT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kyle Matthew Jennett of Creston, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Kyle renovated latrines at a local county park to ensure greater public utilization, including handicap accessibility. The work ethic Kyle has shown in his